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With respect to independent claim 17, this claim has been amended to differ from the Ajisawa reference by at least two carbons at the R₁ position. Accordingly, independent claim 17 encompasses compounds that are not structurally similar or adjacent homologs to the Ajisawa reference and the Examiner is respectfully requested to remove the rejection.

With respect to new independent claim 23, this claim recites compounds which differ from the Ajisawa reference by at least two carbons at the R₂ position. Accordingly, independent claim 23 encompasses compounds that are not structurally similar or adjacent homologs to the Ajisawa reference.

IV. Conclusion

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

It is now believed that the above-referenced objections and rejections have been obviated and it is respectfully requested that they be withdrawn. It is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants request the Examiner to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephonic interview will advance the prosecution of this application.

An early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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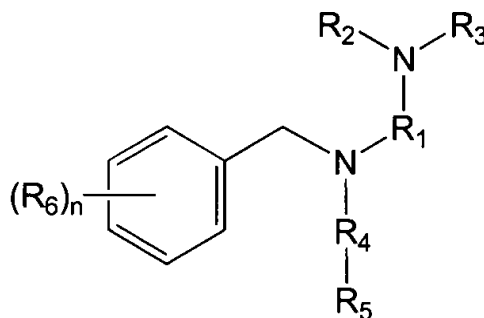
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Twice Amended) A compound [Compounds] of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of [a bond] C_1 or C_{3-10} alkyl, [and] C_{2-10} alkenyl and [or] C_{2-10} alkenylene;

R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{4-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and [or] C_{2-10} alkenylene

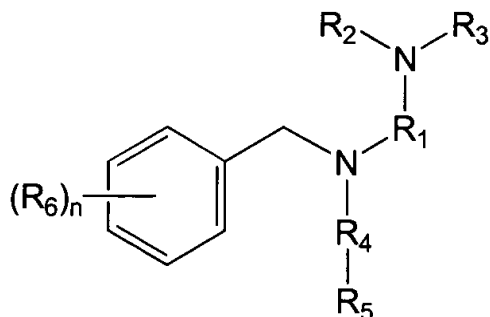
R_4 is selected from the group consisting of a bond and C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and [or] C_{2-10} alkenylene, said [C_{1-10}] alkyl, alkenyl and [or] alkenylene optionally substituted with 1-3 halogen or oxo groups;

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a 5 or 6 membered aromatic or heteroaromatic group, and a C_{3-12} cycloalkyl;

R_6 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl and halogen; and n is an integer from 0-3; and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt [salts] thereof.

7. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound [compounds] of claim 1 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

11.(Amended) **A compound [Compounds]** of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of [a bond, C_1 alkyl, C_{3-10} alkyl] C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and [or] C_{2-10} alkenylene;

R_2 and R_3 are independently [is] selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and [or] C_{2-10} alkenylene;

[R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{4-10} alkyl, alkenyl or alkenylene]

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of a bond, [and] C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and [or] C_{2-10} alkenylene, said [C_{1-10}] alkyl, alkenyl and [or] alkenylene optionally substituted with 1-3 halogen [or oxo] groups;

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a 5 or 6 membered aromatic or heteroaromatic group, and a C_{3-12} cycloalkyl;

R_6 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{3-12} cycloalkyl and halogen; and n is an integer from 0-3; and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt [salts] thereof.

12.(Amended) A compound of claim [8] 11 wherein R_1 is propyl.

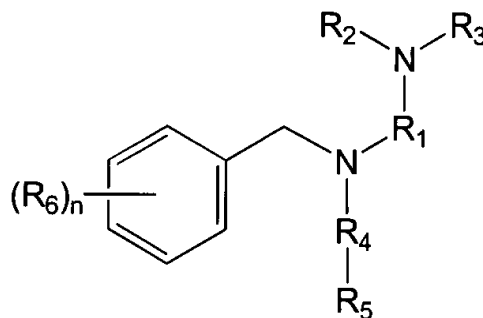
13.(Amended) A compound of claim [8] 11 wherein R_2 is butyl.

14.(Amended) A compound of claim [8] 11 wherein R_4 is selected from a bond, methyl or ethyl, wherein the methyl and ethyl are optionally substituted with a halogen [an oxo] group.

15.(Amended) A compound of claim [8] 11 wherein R_5 is phenyl.

16.(Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim [8] 11 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

17. (Amended) A compound [Compounds] of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R_1 is selected from the group consisting of [a bond, C_1 alkyl, C_{3-10} alkyl] C_{4-10} alkyl, alkenyl or alkenylene;

R_2 **and R_3 are independently** [is] selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, [C_{4-10} alkyl] C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl **and** [or] C_{2-10} alkenylene;

[R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-10} alkyl, alkenyl or alkenylene]

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of a bond and C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{2-10} alkenyl and [or] C_{2-10} alkenylene, said [C_{1-10}] alkyl, alkenyl **and** [or] alkenylene optionally substituted with 1-3 halogen or oxo groups;

R_5 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a 5 or 6 membered aromatic or

heteroaromatic group, and a C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl;

R₆ is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl and halogen; and

n is an integer from 0-3; and a pharmaceutically acceptable salt [salts] thereof.

18.(Amended) A compound of claim [8] 17 wherein R₁ is [propyl] butyl.

19.(Amended) A compound of claim [8] 17 wherein R₂ is butyl.

20.(Amended) A compound of claim [8] 17 wherein R₄ is selected from a bond, methyl or ethyl, wherein the methyl and ethyl are optionally substituted with an oxo group.

21.(Amended) A compound of claim [8] 17 wherein R₅ is phenyl.

22. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim [8] 17 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.